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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Michael Robert Barnes, *et al.* : Art Unit: 1645  
 Serial No.: 09/459,774 : Examiner: R. Zeman  
 Filed: December 13, 1999 : RESPONSE UNDER  
 For: NOVEL COMPOUNDS : 37 C.F.R. 1.116  
 : EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

**RESPONSE TO FINAL  
OFFICE ACTION DATED DECEMBER 22, 2000**

**RECEIVED**

MAR 28 2001

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Final Office Action dated December 22, 2000 (herein "Office Action"), please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

→ Please cancel claims 14-18.

REMARKS

*Brief Status of the Application*

In the Office Action, claims 14-18 were rejected. Claims 2, 5-9 and 11-13 are allowed. In the present amendment, claims 14-18 have been canceled. Thus claims 2, 5-9, and 11-13 are pending.

*Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112*

Claims 15-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 15-18 have been cancelled, thereby rendering the basis of the rejection moot. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

OK to enter  
PZ 4/9/01